

Appl. No.: 09/246,603
Amdt dated December 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 08/05/2003

Patent
14351-0202

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful attention given the application in the Office Action. Claims 1-29 of the present application were pending. In the Office Action mailed August 5, 2003, claims 1-29 have been rejected. Claims 1-29 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 30-58 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC section 103

In the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell. Applicant notes that the Examiner did not specify which Campbell reference was being cited in the rejection. U.S. Patent No. 5,924,997 to Campbell et al. ("Campbell '997") and U.S. Patent No. 6,245,026 to Campbell et al. ("Campbell '026") have both been made of record in the instant application.

In any event, claims 1-29 have been canceled, without prejudice, which renders the aforementioned rejection moot. Applicant asserts that the new claims recite an invention which is neither taught nor suggested by Campbell '997 or Campbell '026, either alone or in combination, and is thus patentably distinct in light of these references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes the pending claims to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully and sincerely solicited.

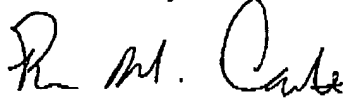
If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1329.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 1/5/04 -

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